Amendments to the Abstract:

An apparatus and a method are provided in which a workpiece is loaded into the apparatus and the apparatus then moves and positions the workpiece in a multitude of directions based upon the directions and controls supplied to the apparatus through either a computer and applets, a programmable controller and/or through manual intervention. The apparatus can move the workpiece linearly to a predetermined position, rotate the workpiece in a continuous motion, index the workpiece incrementally and/or do any combination of those movements. The apparatus can also control other components such as turning coolant and/or quench valves on and off as desired or powering working tools such as an induction hardening coil. The workpiece is loaded directly on the center of the apparatus movement and positioning device for increased capacity loading and precision movement.

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for workpiece movement and positioning comprising the steps of:

loading the workpiece;

moving the said workpiece linearly to a predetermined location;

stopping the said linear movement of the said workpiece at the said predetermined location;

returning the said workpiece to its original location;

and unloading the said workpiece;

and the optional step of:

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constantly rotating the said workpiece when the said workpiece is moving linearly or at the said predetermined location;

and the optional steps of:

not constantly rotating the said workpiece when the said workpiece is moving linearlyor at the said predetermined location, but instead holding the workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined period of time;

and the optional steps of:

not constantly rotating the said workpiece when the said workpiece is moving linearly or at the said predetermined location and instead holding the said workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined period of time;

lowering the said workpiece a predetermined distance;

indexing the said workpiece by rotating the said workpiece a predetermined incremental amount;

raising the said workpiece back into position;

holding the said workpiece in a fixed position for a predetermined amount of time; and

repeating the said lowering, indexing, raising and holding steps until the said workpiece has been indexed 360 degrees or less as required by the said workpiece.

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Deleted: moving the workpiece linearly to a predetermined location; ¶
stopping the linear movement of the workpiece at the predetermined location; ¶
returning the workpiece to its original location; ¶
and unloading the workpiece; ¶

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moving the workpiece linearly to a predetermined location; ¶
stopping the linear movement of the workpiece at the predetermined location

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and unloading the workpiece;

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loading the workpiece; ¶
moving the workpiece linearly to a predetermined location;

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and unloading the workpiece. ¶

2. (Not Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 including an induction coil and quench means; the step of activating the induction coil and quench means as the workpiece travels linearly to harden the workpiece.

3. (Not Amended) The method as set forth in claim 2 including the step of moving the workpiece back through the activated induction coil at a substantially greater speed that the speed of the workpiece during hardening of the workpiece wherein the workpiece is tempered.

4. (Not Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 including an induction coil and quench means; the step of activating the induction coil and quench means while the workpiece is being held in position.

5. (Not Amended) The method of claim 1 including any of the means for milling, drilling, welding, assembling, stamping, marking or bending; including the step of activating the means for milling, drilling, welding, assembling, stamping, marking or bending.